Annual Average Growth Rate of Wheat and Paddy

†3530. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a great difference in the annual average growth rate of production of wheat and paddy during the decades of 80's and 90's;

(b) if so, what has been the annual average growth rate of production of wheat and paddy during both the decades;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the reasons for this difference; and

(d) if so, the details of the reasons and the target fixed in this regard during coming decades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The compound annual growth rate of production of wheat and rice during the decades of eighties and nineties are given in the following table:

(% per annum)

	1979-80 to 1989-90	1989-90 to 1999-2000
Wheat	4.24	3.38
Rice	4.29	1.84

(c) and (d) Due to mono-cropping being practiced in major cereals producing States, rice-wheat rotation is in practice for more than two decades. Due to over exploitation of soil fertility and ground water, the growth rate of production has shown marginally declining trend. Growth rate in case of wheat is almost sustained as wheat is grown in winter season which is free from adverse weather situation. On the contrary, rice is cultivated in rainy season which is prone to diverse weather situation as well as natural calamities.

The Planning Commission has projected the growth rate of foodgrains for the ten year period (1997-98 to 2007-08) at 4.45%.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.